

Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 123021

O R 160458Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1549

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

S E C R E T MUSCAT 1166

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS MARR US MU JO

SUBJECT: M-203 SHIPMENT TO OMAN

REF: AMMAN 6930

1. ASSUME DEPT WILL PROVIDE AMMAN FOR RESPONSE TO KING HUSSEIN SUMMARY OF THE M-203, M-16 AND AMMUNITION TRANSACTIONS AND HOW MATTERS STAND AT THE MOMENT. FROM HERE WE HAVE FOL COMMENTS THAT MAY BE HELPFUL:

A. WE HAVE HAD NO INDICATION IN RECENT WEEKS THAT OMANIS WERE THINKING OF GOING TO KING HUSSEIN FOR HELP IN THIS MATTER, NOR INDEED THAT SULTAN QABOOS HIMSELF WAS INVOLVING HIMSELF DIRECTLY IN IT. BRITISH OFFICERS IN SAF AND MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAVE NOT HINTED OF THAT, NOR HAS FONMIN ZAWAWI DONE SO. MINISTER OF INTERIOR (SAYYID FAHER) HAS HAD HEAVY TRAVEL SCHEDULE LATELY, INCLUDING SOUTH KOREA, AND HAS HAD NO DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN TRANSACTIONS.

B. WHILE OMANI SIDE HAS REPEATEDLY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF RECEIVING THESE ITEMS BY VERY EARLY FALL, NO ONE HAS SPOKEN OF "MORALE" AMONG OMANI FORCES AS AN ADDITIONAL FACTOR NECESSITATING EARLY ARRIVAL OF THE EQUIPMENT.

C. WE OF COURSE CONCUR WITH AMBASSADOR PICKERING'S COMMENT THAT ALL BUSINESS ON THIS AND SIMILAR MATTERS SHOULD BE HANDLED

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DIRECTLY BETWEEN USG AND OMAN, WITHOUT JORDAN'S BEING INVOLVED.

2. FONMIN ZAWAWI SEEMED SATISFIED WHEN I TOLD HIM OCT. 15
(STATE 243411, NOTAL) WASHINGTON IS EXPEDITING ARRANGEMENTS
ON TRANSPORTATION, AND THAT PRESENT OUTLOOK IS FOR MILITARY
FLIGHT VERY SOON. HE SAID HE WOULD SEE THAT SULTAN QABOOS WAS
INFORMED.
WOLLE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: woolflhd
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MUSCAT01166
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750358-0499
From: MUSCAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751047/aaaabpwj.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 AMMAN 6930
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2003 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: M-203 SHIPMENT TO OMAN
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, MARR, US, MU, JO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006